



[Supporting AB 684 to fund CVSOs on all active duty military bases in California]

Resolution recognizing the contributions of County Veterans Service Officers to the State of California and its veterans, and urging the passage of AB684.

WHEREAS, there are approximately 1.8 million veterans residing in the State of California, including over 442,000 service-connected disabled veterans and over 10,000 homeless veterans; and

WHEREAS, County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) are essential in assisting veterans navigate the complex bureaucracy of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and access the federal and California benefits they deserve; and

WHEREAS, The California Association of CVSOs has reported that claims filed through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs with the assistance of a CVSO have a higher rate of approval, demonstrating the value of CVSOs in guiding veterans; and

WHEREAS, Solano County's decision to permanently station a veterans service officer at Travis Air Force base has been successful in helping an average of 10 separating veterans per day access nearly \$95 million in federal and California



benefits; and

WHEREAS, many California counties do not have the resources required to provide a permanent CVSO, resulting in discharging service members receiving inconsistent support in navigating benefit claims and challenges post-discharge; and

WHEREAS, AB 684 will provide additional resources to California counties that host an active United States military base for the purposes of maintaining a county veterans service officer, at least part time, at each base, subject to base approval; and

WHEREAS, AB 684 will help connect veterans to their well-deserved benefits, which will in turn help offset the high cost of living in California and assist veterans and their families in remaining in the state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission recognizes the importance of County Veteran Service Officers in assisting veterans access their federal and California benefits and in helping them navigate the complex bureaucracy of the various Veterans Affairs agencies; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission recognizes Solano County's successful approach of permanently stationing a veterans service officer on its active United States military base and encourages other counties to follow suit;



and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission recognizes the importance of connecting veterans to their well-deserved benefits and the role that County Veteran Service Officers play in that process; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission commends AB 684 for providing additional resources to California counties that host an active United States military base for the purposes of expanding on the success of Solano County's successful program; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the California Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign into law, AB 684 to ensure that California's service members have access to the benefits to which they are entitled and that the state is upholding its responsibility to its service members in assisting their transition to civilian life.